GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4437
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
Mobile Net Access
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural India has much less mobile net access;

(b) if so, the details thereof in comparison to urban areas; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote use and access of mobile net in rural India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (c) The mobile services are being provided by licensed Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in accordance with the terms and conditions of their respective license agreement, which is technology neutral. Presently, the mobile services are provided by the TSPs using 2G (Second Generation)/ 3G (Third Generation) and/ or 4G (Fourth Generation) technologies. Internet access can be provided using any of these mobile technologies.

The terms and conditions of the license granted to the TSPs provide that they are required to fulfill minimum roll out obligations as prescribed in their respective license agreements. However, the telecom licenses do not mandate coverage of all rural areas by the TSPs. Therefore, the TSPs deploy their network using any technology as per their business decision and commercial viability after meeting the minimum roll out obligations. The Department of Telecommunications does not monitor coverage beyond the mandatory requirement as per roll out obligations.

As reported by the Telecom Service Providers, the details of subscriber accessing Internet through mobile devices, with urban-rural break-up, as on 30.06.2016 is enclosed as Annexure-I.

Government has already initiated a scheme to provide broadband connectivity at each village panchayat through BharatNet Programme under the aegis of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The TSPs are free to use this facility to expand their services for providing access of mobile net in rural India.